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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Paul J. Berenson  
Executive Officer  
Defense Science Board

SUBJECT: Proposed DSB Task Force on Soviet Studies

Paul —

1. Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft TOR for the proposed DSB Task Force.
2. The Intelligence Community's most important mission is to anticipate and correctly evaluate Soviet courses of action and initiatives. As you point out, this type of analysis is critical to the US decisionmaking process.
3. Frankly, I believe that the DSB is unaware of the broad range of work on the USSR being done in CIA, DIA and the rest of the Intelligence Community. The research program for the DI for FY 1986 is now available and should be brought to the attention of the DSB. Bibliographies and other lists of research papers completed since 1981 also are available. The Board also may not be aware of the extraordinary scope of Community contacts with individuals outside the Community. This takes the form of contracts, consultants and seminars, and helps ensure that our work is exposed to other views.
4. In summary, I believe that the DSB should better inform itself about what has been done and is underway in the Community on the USSR before deciding whether a task force is needed. If you think it useful, once the DSB has examined what has been done in the Community, I and presumably Lt Gen Perroots would be happy to talk with the Board at an appropriate time.

R.M.G.

Robert M. Gates  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

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